

Red Cross show 122 years of support for America, military

by Airman 1st Class Martha Whipple
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Since 1881, the American Red Cross has been making a difference for the United States and military families.

From the Spanish-American War to current operations, the Red Cross supports the home front and the battlefield.

About 100 Red Cross volunteers have been making a difference at Holloman, some of them for 20, 30 and 37 years.

About 22 years ago, Dorothy Hampton lived in a travel trailer at Holloman's Fam Camp with a husband and four children. This motivated her to volunteer for the Red Cross in September 1975.

Hampton started at Holloman's hospital as a comfort cart girl. The comfort cart was a tray loaded with juice and comfort items that were given to patients. Now Hampton volunteers at the pharmacy here.

"As a military spouse, moving from base to base in a relatively short period of time was a way of

life," she said. "Because the Red Cross serves 109 military installations, there was always a need for volunteers. It's a way to give back and to show support for the men and women of our armed forces."

Holloman's Red Cross' major focal point recently has been supporting deploying personnel and their families.

"Around the clock and around the globe, the Red Cross keeps people in touch with their family members serving the United States military," said Evelyn Martinez, Holloman's Red Cross director. "We are a volunteer force helping to serve the men and women of the Armed Forces."

The American Red Cross is the only private organization that deploys with the military. There are currently 30 American Red Cross workers deployed along with the military to provide emergency communications services. These workers live side by side with our

troops in the desert.

Since September 11, 2001, the American Red Cross has been distributing comfort kits for deploying members. The kits include bare necessities such as razors, shaving cream, soap and shampoo.

According to Martinez, the Red Cross handed out more than 350 comfort kits, which cost \$3 each, to deploying troops.

In addition to supporting deployments, Red Cross volunteers give time and energy to the 49th Medical Group, dental clinic, base schools, community center, education center, fitness center, library, legal office and instruct CPR, First Aid, lifeguard and baby sitting classes to Team Holloman members.

"We have an incredible group of volunteers who selflessly sacrifice time to increase morale and show support to the base community," Martinez said. "These volunteers play a crucial role in the mission here and are the heart of our chapter."

To volunteer call Holloman's Red Cross at 572-7066.



Katie Hillary Gaskill, Red Cross dental assistant, makes an impression of Staff Sgt. Katie Rosenbeck's teeth. Five Red Cross volunteers donate 40 hours each week to the 49th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron clinic.



Susan Leuquire, Red Cross school chairman, hands out Emergency Connection Services pamphlets at a Right Start Assembly for the Army National Guardsmen new to Holloman.



Courtesy photo

Red Cross volunteers deliver items on a comfort cart at the Base Hospital in 1971. The Red Cross has supported the base since 1942. Most of the volunteers were women who worked at the Base Hospital and the school.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy

Tristan Boyd, kindergarten student, colors a poster to celebrate Red Cross month in March. About 300 students designed posters, some of which can be seen on the bulletin board at the Base Exchange.